

Whampoa, 28. Decr. 1862.

My dear Dr. Gray,

It was a great pleasure to me to receive last mail your kind letter of 29. Sept.

I am well aware of the effect the terrible struggle in your country - so much intensified since I last wrote to you - must have on all scientific labors. & I can quite understand your inability to attend to correspondents.

But when I wrote to you, I was really quite uncertain, owing to your long silence, whether my several letters or envoys had reached you. Let me beg you now not to believe that it was solely from a view to get specimens that I teased you. I shall expect nothing until happier times arrive, & then I feel sure you will remember an old correspondent.

I consider I ~~was~~<sup>am</sup> justified in my <sup>former</sup> anxieties by a remark in your letter under acknowledgment. You say "I have endeavored to apprise you of my existence by sending to you from time to time such publications - of no great value or extent - as I have made". Now since your celebrated & masterly review of Wright's Japan

collections - published April 1859 - of which  
you were so kind as to send me a copy,  
long prior to my last despatch - I have seen  
nothing from your pen - so that I could not  
tell whether you had forgotten me or not.  
I need scarcely say that if you have  
written anything on the Botany of Eastern  
Asia since then it would be most accep-  
table to me, who am making a particular  
study of the E. Chinese flora. Early this  
year I published a few "novitiae" in the  
"Annales des sciences naturelles," & have some  
others still in hand, but I have but few  
opportunities now of making discoveries -  
being located in a place where all is  
barren - i. e. botanically - for it is a rich  
alluvial district.

I hope and pray that more tranquil &  
happier times may soon arrive, & that  
you may be able to return to your favorite  
studies with an undisturbed mind, and  
complete your Flora of N. America in  
conjunction with Dr. Torrey. Meanwhile,  
if there is anything here it is in my  
power to send you, I shall have great  
pleasure in endeavoring to do so.

When you next write to Mr. Wright,

please remember me to him very  
kindly.

I am,  
My dear Dr. Gray,  
Very sincerely Yours,

P. R. RAVENEL